

Application Serial No. 10/800,603
Reply to Office Action of January 30, 2005

PATENT
Docket: CU-3637

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application before this amendment. By the present amendment, the independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

In the office action, claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Nos. 6,407,929 (Hale) in view of 6,737,742 (Sweterlitsch).

The amendments made to claim 1 herein have been presented to the examiner via email for his review on March 13, 2006, and it has been agreed in a telephonic examiner interview that the amended claim 1 would overcome the current rejection over the Hale and Sweterlitsch references. In particular, it was agreed that Hale or Sweterlitsch does not teach or suggest, inter alia, the claimed limitation of:

--a reinforcing member having two surfaces and sides, wherein the surface areas of the reinforcing member are larger than the opening forming portion, provided wherein the sides and one surface area of the reinforcing member are embedded in said substrate body at a portion corresponding to the opening forming portion such that only a portion of the unembedded surface is exposed through the opening forming portion--.

The examiner has indicated over telephone that an Interview Summary indicating the agreement has been mailed out, and as courtesy, the examiner has faxed a copy of the Interview Summary to the undersigned attorney (a copy is enclosed).

For the reasons set forth above, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-19 pending in this application are in condition for allowance over the cited references. The applicants therefore request a Notice of Allowance in the next action after the

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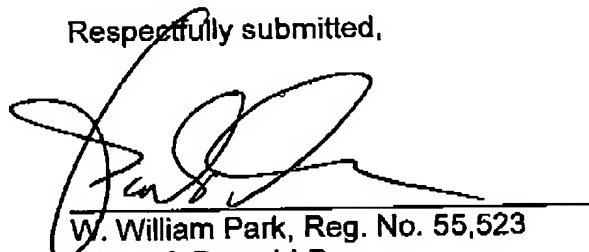
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examiner's further consideration and review of the present amendment and/or an updated search.

This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the office action. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and earnestly solicit an indication of allowable subject matter. Should the examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 9, 2006



W. William Park, Reg. No. 55,523
Ladas & Parry LLP
224 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 427-1300